

District Manager's Letter to Stakeholders:

U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Rocky Mountain District

Denver District Office

DFC

Denver, Colorado 80225



February 23, 2006

Dear Mine Safety and Health Stakeholders:

The mines in the Rocky Mountain District were as safe as any of the mines in the world in 2003 and 2004. In 2005 we suffered a set-back and experienced seven fatal accidents.

The Metal/Nonmetal industry has started to trend upwards again since the historical low of 26 fatalities in 2003. Reducing the number of fatal accidents in this industry has been a great accomplishment and everyone's participation in this achievement is greatly appreciated. We all need to re-commit to sending every miner home every day. We all need to continue to pursue reducing fatal accidents in the Rocky Mountain District.

MSHA continues to commit to provide information and assistance to the mining industry and community in an effort to reduce accidents. Again this year, we will conduct Spring Thaw workshops and other Stakeholder meetings throughout the district. Metal/Nonmetal will hold these types of meetings across the country. Our staff is distributing materials and information to the mining industry on a regular basis.

Again this year, your commitment to miner's safety and health should include partnering with labor, mine management, state and federal agencies, contractors and safety organizations. Our goal and visions can still be accomplished with everyone's contributions.

Sincerely,

Irvin T. Hooker

Irvin T. Hooker

District Manager

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Rocky Mountain District